

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJ: MORALES BERMUDEZ, AT CREDENTIALS CEREMONIES, ENDORSES
COOPERATION WITH BOLIVIA AND ECUADOR

1. IN TWO CEREMONIES ON MAY 10 AT WHICH PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ RECEIVED THE CREDENTIALS OF BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR WALTER MONTENEGRO SORIA AND ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR MIGUEL VASCO VASCO, THE PRESIDENT PLEDGED CONTINUED COOPERATION IN AREAS OF CONCERN TO BOTH COUNTRIES. HIS REMARKS WERE QUOTED EXTENSIVELY IN GOP-CONTROLLED PRESS.

2. TO AMBASSADOR MONTENEGRO, THE PRESIDENT PLEDGED PERU'S SUPPORT FOR "BOLIVIA'S JUST ASPIRATION TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF ITS LAND-LOCKED STATUS (MEDITERRANEIDAD)." HE DECLARED THAT THE GOP IS WILLING TO MAKE SUCH SUPPORT EFFECTIVE AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME, IN ACCORD WITH PERU'S DESIRE TO ACHIEVE A PERMANENT SOLUTION THAT RESPONDS TO THE OBJECTIVES OF PEACE, INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THE ROLE OF INTEGRATION AS "THE INEVITABLE HISTORIC STEP" TOWARD LATIN AMERICAN UNITY. THE PRESIDENT CALLED ATTENTION TO THE "SOLID TIES WHICH UNITE PERU AND BOLIVIA," THEIR COMMON
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ORIGIN AND SHARED HISTORY.

3. IN THE INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR VASCO, MORALES BERMUDEZ PRAISED THE JOINT 10-YEAR EFFORT AT BORDER INTEGRATION AS AN EXAMPLE OF DYNAMISM AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL OF LATIN AMERICA. HE EXPRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS SHARE A HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND DEPENDENCY,

AND CITED THE PERMANENT PERUVIAN ECUADOREAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION AS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOLS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INTEGRATION. HE CALLED ON ECUADOR TO RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR SITUATION AS NEIGHBORS IMPLIES PROBLEMS AND SITUATIONS THAT MUST BE SEEN FROM A NEW VIEWPOINT. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WILL FIND THE PATH TOWARD "A RELATIONSHIP FOUNDED ON COOPERATION, WITHIN ESTABLISHED JURIDICAL FRAMEWORKS."

4. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S STATESMANLIKE EMPHASIS ON COOPERATION, INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT TENDS TO MASK THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS THAT CONTINUE TO SEPARATE PERU FROM BOLIVIA AND ECUADOR. IN BOTH CASES HE REITERATES WHAT HAS BECOME THE STANDARD GOP POSITION, WHILE APPEARING TO BE POSITIVE AND FORTHCOMING.

DECONTROL NOV 11, 1978. PREGG

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